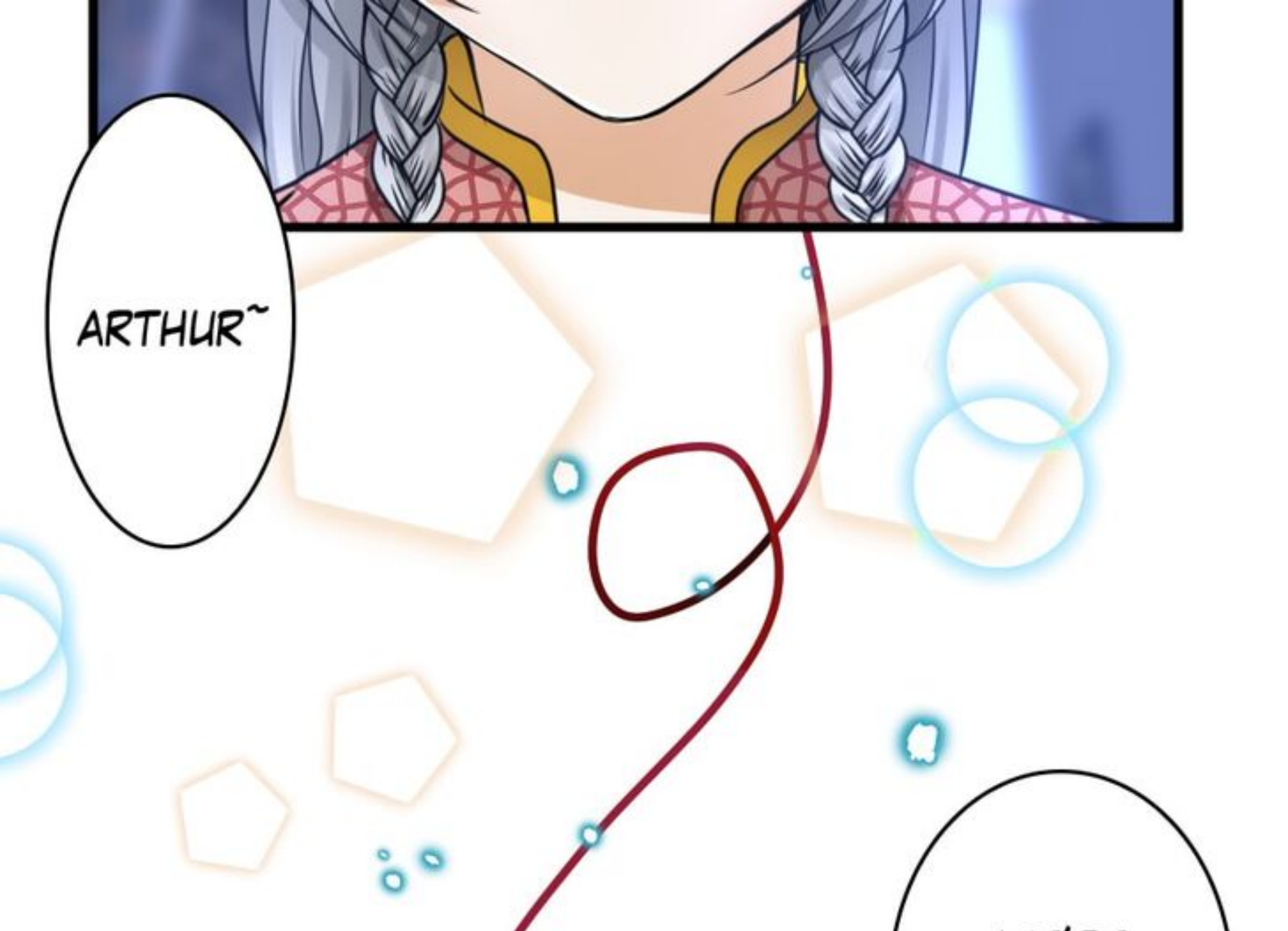


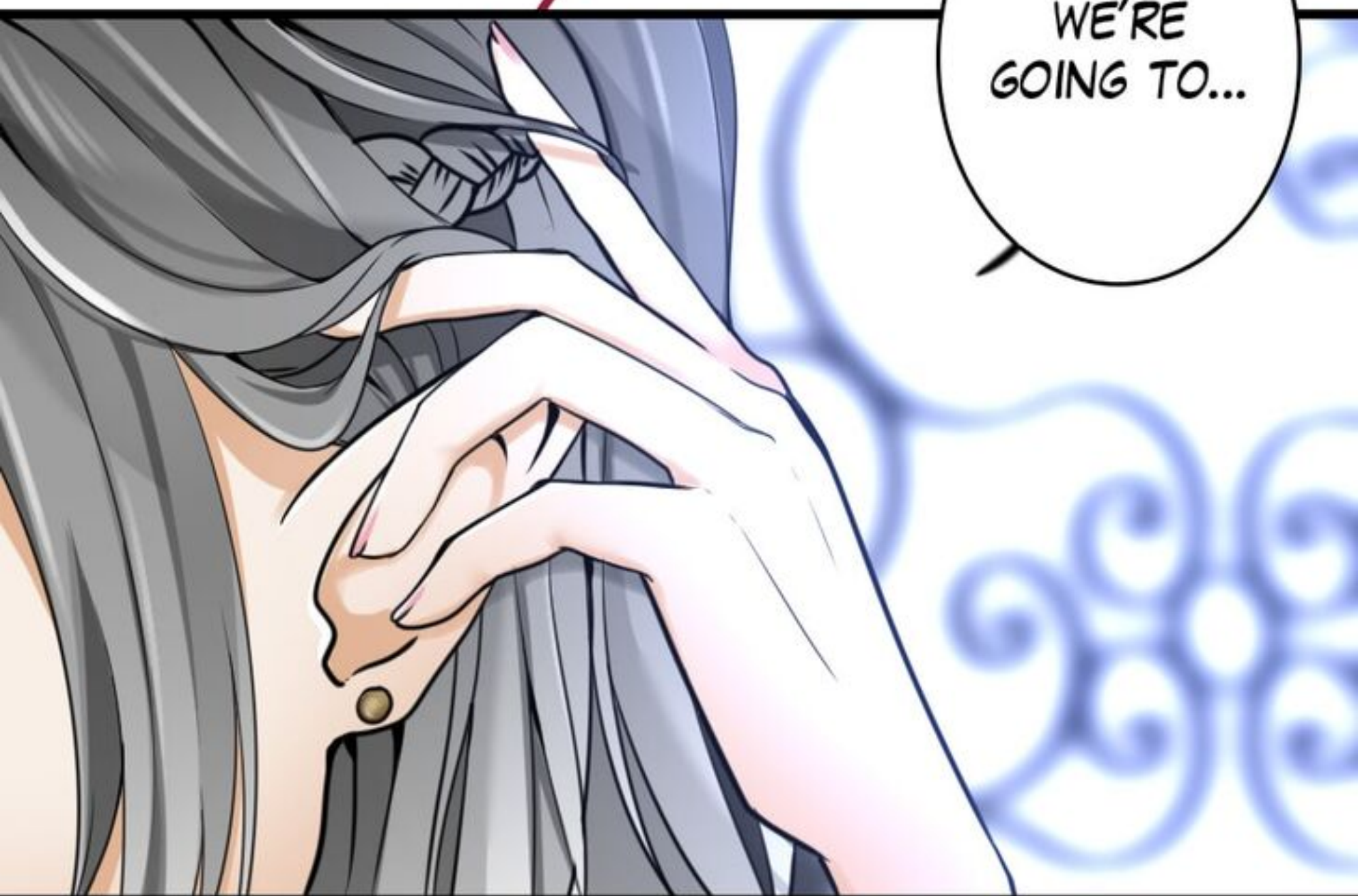
3 Years
Later





ARTHUR~

The top panel shows a close-up of two characters with long, light blue hair styled in braids. They are wearing red and white checkered clothing with yellow trim. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds and a red vine-like line with small blue flowers.



WE'RE
GOING TO...

The middle panel shows a close-up of a hand holding a small, light blue flower. The hand is positioned near the face of a character with long, dark grey hair. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds and a red vine-like line with small blue flowers.



BE...

The bottom panel shows a close-up of a hand holding a small, light blue flower. The hand is positioned near the face of a character with long, dark grey hair. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds and a red vine-like line with small blue flowers.





**STOP!
I GIVE,
I GIVE!!!**

SHEESH...



YOU
ACTUALLY
USED MANA
TO TWIST MY
ANKLE.

CAN'T
YOU FIND A
GENTLER WAY
TO WAKE ME
UP, TESS?





IT'S NOT
MY FAULT YOU
DIDN'T WAKE UP
WHEN I ASKED
NICELY.



BESIDES...



YOU
SHOULD FEEL
GRATEFUL THAT
SUCH A PRETTY
GIRL LIKE ME
IS WAKING
YOU UP.



I FIND
THE MAIDS
HERE PLENTY
PRETTY.

DID
YOU SAY
SOMETHING?



DID YOU
THINK THAT
MAID JUST NOW
WAS PRETTY?



GIVE IT
A REST.



TOOK YOU
TWO LONG
ENOUGH.

LET'S GET YOU
BOTH READY FOR
YOUR LESSON.



THE
BEGINNING
AFTER
THE
END

STORY BY
TURTLEME

ART BY
FUYUKI23

PRESENTED BY
TAPAS MEDIA

QUALITY CONTROL BY
KISAI ENTERTAINMENT

EDITORS
GABRIELLE LUU AND YOSSY

COLOR ASSISTANT
PLOWPLO

THERE
EXISTS
FOUR BASIC
ELEMENTS AND
THEIR HIGHER
FORMS.



THESE
HIGHER
ELEMENTS--
ICE, GRAVITY,
LIGHTNING,
SOUND--

CAN ONLY
BE CONTROLLED
BY A MAGE THAT

BY THE TIME THAT
HAS GONE BEYOND
MASTERY OF THEIR
FOUNDATIONAL
ELEMENTS.



WE CALL
THEM *DEVIANTS*.

DWARVES
CAN ONLY
MANIPULATE
EARTH AND/OR
FIRE, BUT LIKE
ELVES,

THEY POSSESS
MUCH HIGHER
AFFINITY TO
THESE TWO
ELEMENTS.



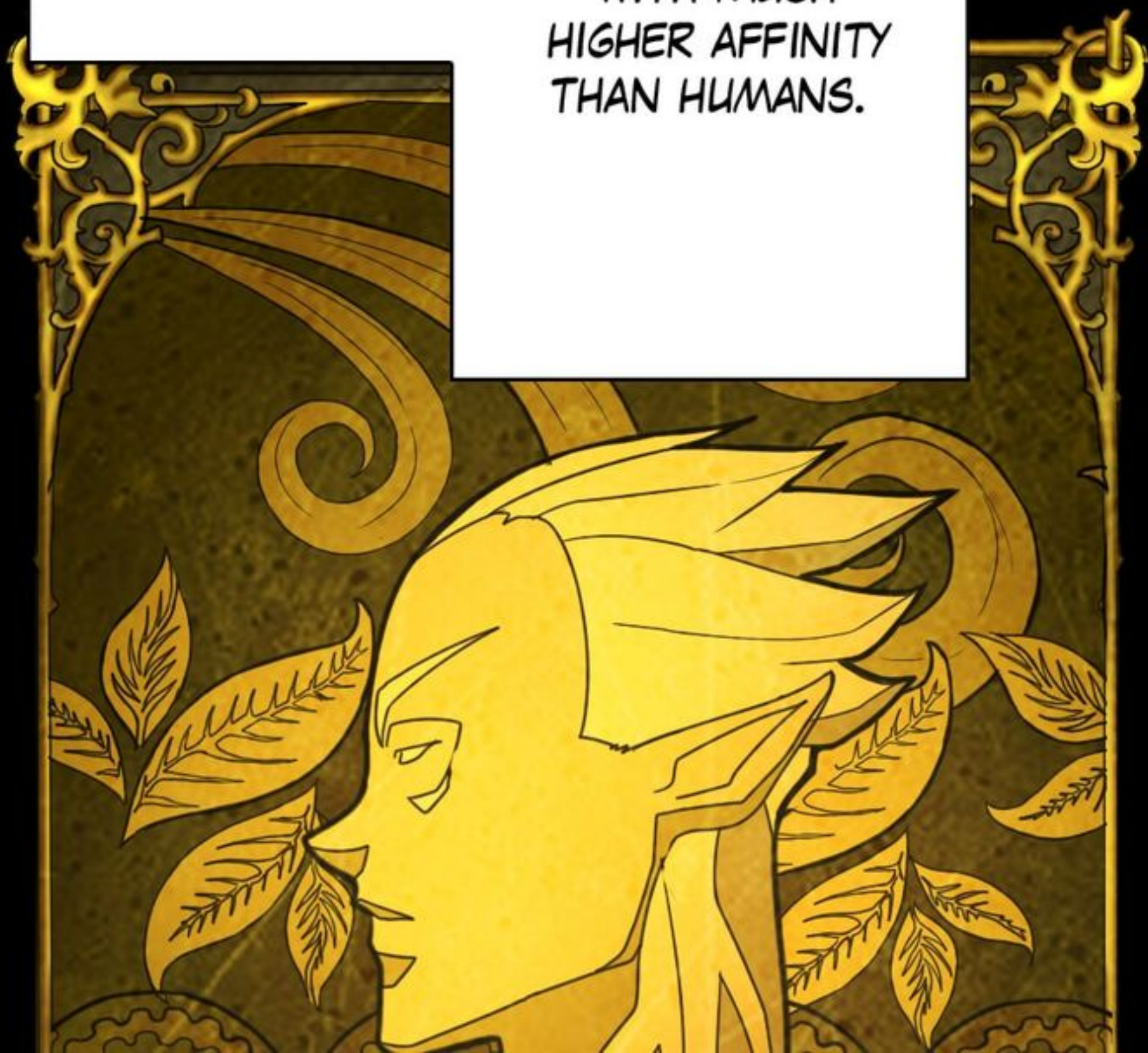
THEIR
DISTINCT
TRAIT LIES
IN THE FACT
THAT ALL DWARVES
CAN MOLD AND
BEND METAL,

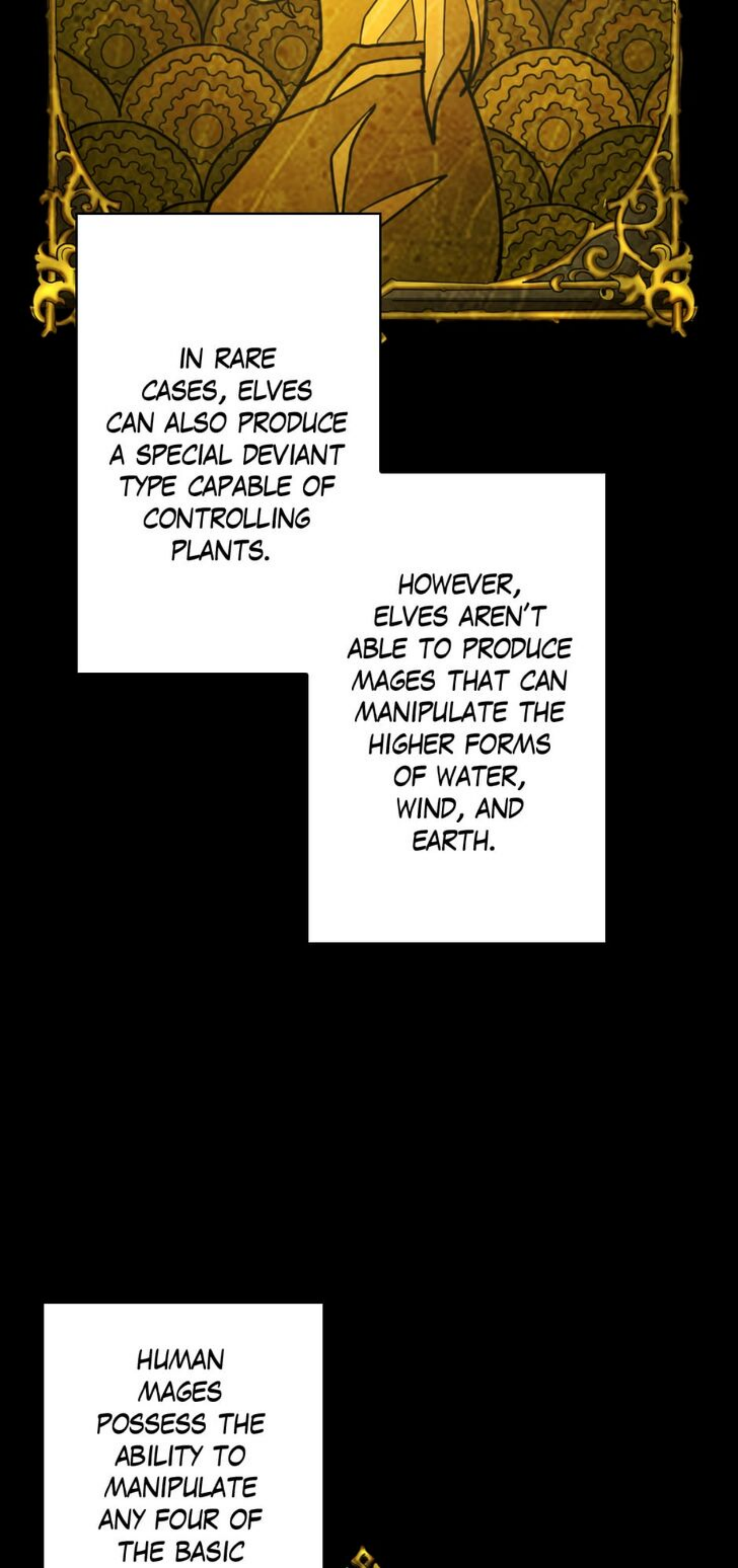
WHILE
TALENTED
DWARVES CAN
CONTROL FIRE AND
EARTH TO SUCH A

HIGH DEGREE THAT
THEY'RE ABLE TO
CONJURE AND
MANIPULATE
MAGMA.

ELVES
ARE LIMITED
TO WATER, WIND,
AND EARTH
ELEMENTS

BUT
WITH MUCH
HIGHER AFFINITY
THAN HUMANS.



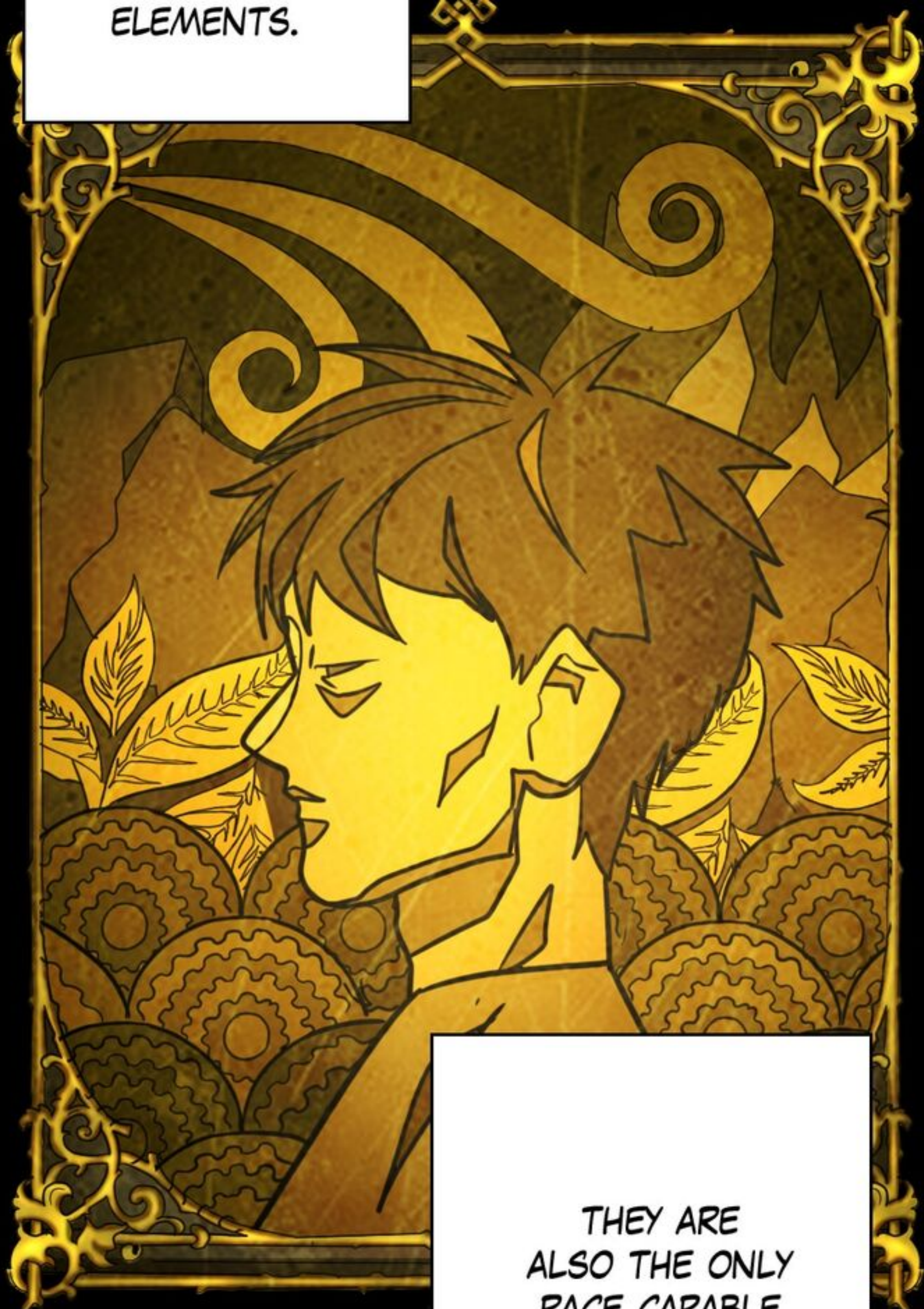


IN RARE
CASES, ELVES
CAN ALSO PRODUCE
A SPECIAL DEVIANT
TYPE CAPABLE OF
CONTROLLING
PLANTS.

HOWEVER,
ELVES AREN'T
ABLE TO PRODUCE
MAGES THAT CAN
MANIPULATE THE
HIGHER FORMS
OF WATER,
WIND, AND
EARTH.

HUMAN
MAGES
POSSESS THE
ABILITY TO
MANIPULATE
ANY FOUR OF
THE BASIC

ELEMENTS.



THEY ARE
ALSO THE ONLY
RACE CAPABLE
OF PRODUCING
DEVIANTS IN ANY
OF THOSE ELEMENTS
ALONG WITH
ANOMALIES,

THAT
CAN'T BE
CATEGORIZED
IN ANY OF THE
ELEMENTS, LIKE
EMITTERS--
HEALERS--
FOR EXAMPLE.

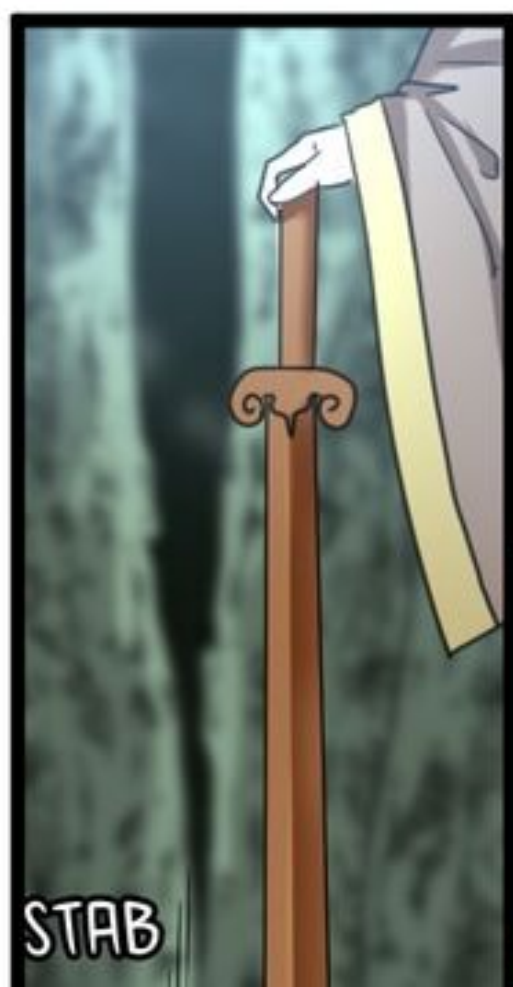


THERE
EXISTS A SUBTLE
POWER BALANCE
BETWEEN OUR
THREE RACES,





TAKING
INTO ACCOUNT
POPULATION, OVERALL
INHERENT AFFINITY
TO ELEMENTS,
AND DIVERSITY
IN MAGES.





HMM...



IT'S
PASSABLE.

HUFF
HUFF



QUESTION!



I KNOW THAT
THIS WHOLE
ASSIMILATION
PROCESS THING IS
MEANT TO GET
ART'S BODY READY
TO HANDLE HIS
BEAST WILL,



BUT
WOULDN'T
IT BETTER TO
HAVE HIM TRAIN HIS
BODY PHYSICALLY
WHILE USING
MAGIC,
LIKE ME?



I'VE KNOWN
ALL ALONG FROM
MY LESSONS
BEFOREHAND,

BUT THE
DIFFERENCE IN
RACES REALLY HAVE
SHOWN OVER THESE

THREE YEARS.

WHILE HUMANS
WERE CONSIDERED
TALENTED IF THEY
AWAKENED IN THEIR
LATE PRETEEN
YEARS,

IT WASN'T
SURPRISING FOR
ELVEN CHILDREN
TO AWAKEN AS
SOON AS TEN.



FOR TESS,

IT HAD HAPPENED
EVEN EARLIER AT
THE TENDER AGE
OF NINE.

WHY?
ARE YOU ANGRY
THAT YOU'RE THE
ONLY ONE GETTING
BEAT UP WHILE
TRAINING?

YES.

SINCE THEN,
SHE'S BEEN TRAINING
HER CONJURING SKILLS
WITH A TUTOR WHILE
LEARNING TO FIGHT
FROM HER
GRANDFATHER.



GEEZ.
GRAMPA
NEEDS TO GO
EASIER...

SHE'S GOING
TO BE QUITE
THE MONSTER IN
THE FUTURE...

THOUGH I
SHOULDN'T BE
ONE TO TALK.

WHAT
ARTHUR'S BEEN
DOING THESE THREE
YEARS IS BASICALLY
FUSING HIS BONES,
MUSCLES AND ORGANS
WITH HIS MANA.

HE HASN'T
BEEN PHYSICALLY
TRAINING LIKE YOU,
LITTLE ONE,

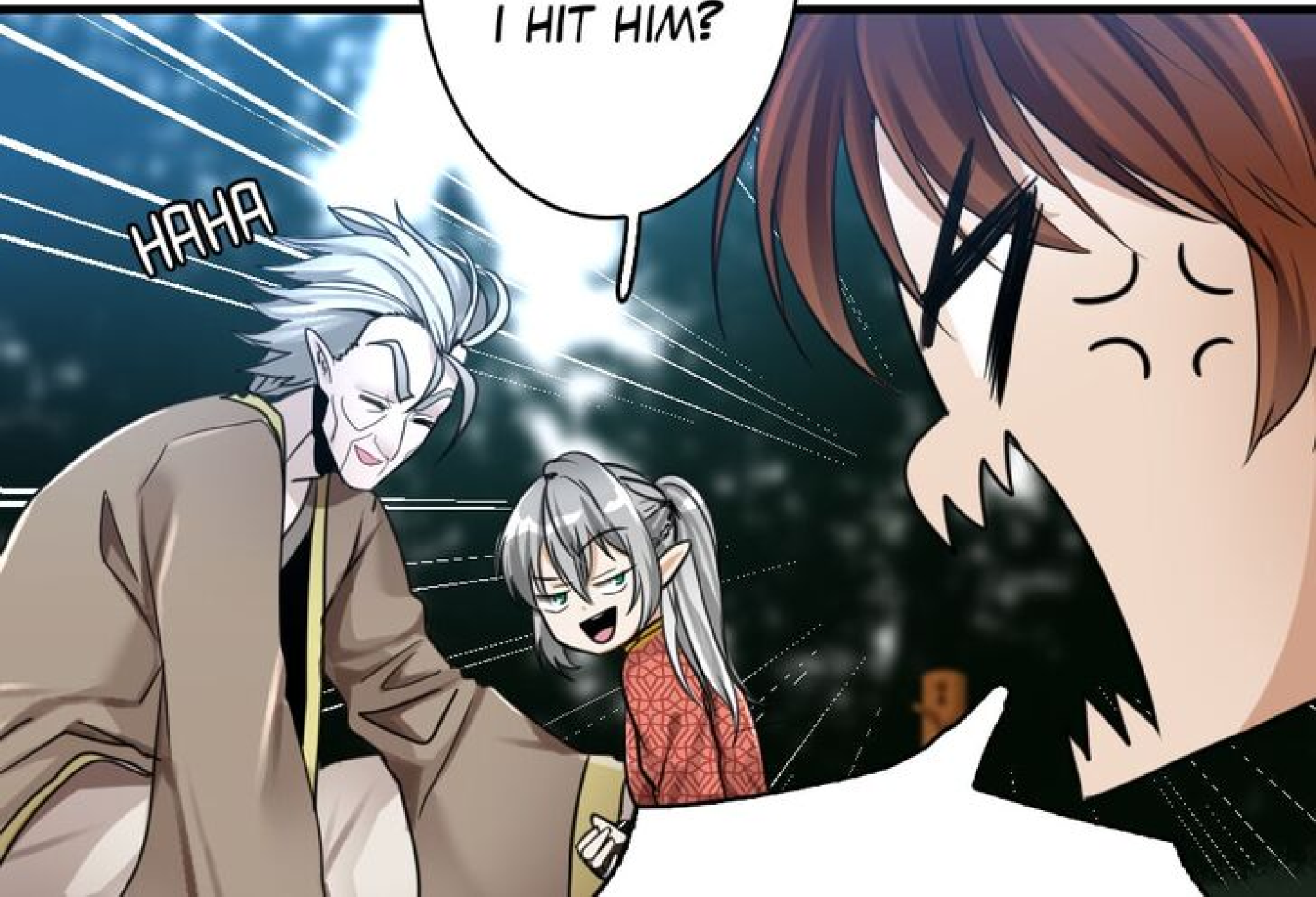
BUT
I CAN ASSURE
THAT ONCE THIS IS
OVER, HIS BODY WILL
BE STRONGER AND
MORE RESILIENT
THAN A VETERAN
WARRIOR.





REALLY?

THEN HOW
COME HE'S SO
SENSITIVE WHEN
I HIT HIM?



I STILL FEEL PAIN,
YOU KNOW!!

SEEMS LIKE
THREE YEARS
OF FUSION HASN'T
BEEN ENOUGH TO
SAP AWAY YOUR
ENERGY.



ARE
YOU READY?



GOOD. AFTER
TODAY. YOU'LL

BE A TRUE BEAST
TAMER, UNLIKE THOSE
LUCKY ADVENTURERS
WHO MERELY USE
THEIR BEAST WILL
LIKE TOOLS.



I'M GOING
TO IGNITE YOUR
MANA CORE BY
INSERTING A LARGE
AMOUNT OF MY
OWN MANA.

TAP



YOU'LL
FEEL A BIT WARM
BUT IT SHOULDN'T
BE TOO BAD.



G
R
R
R
R
R
R

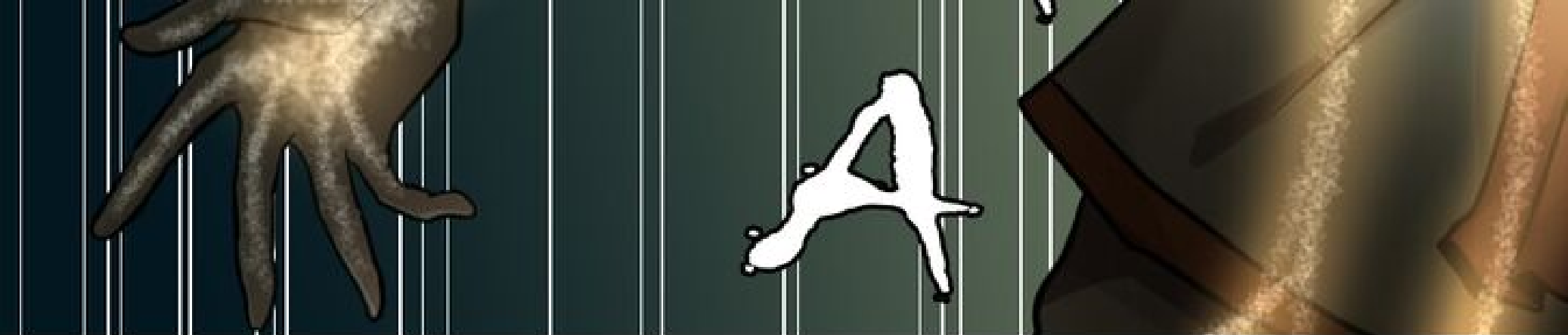
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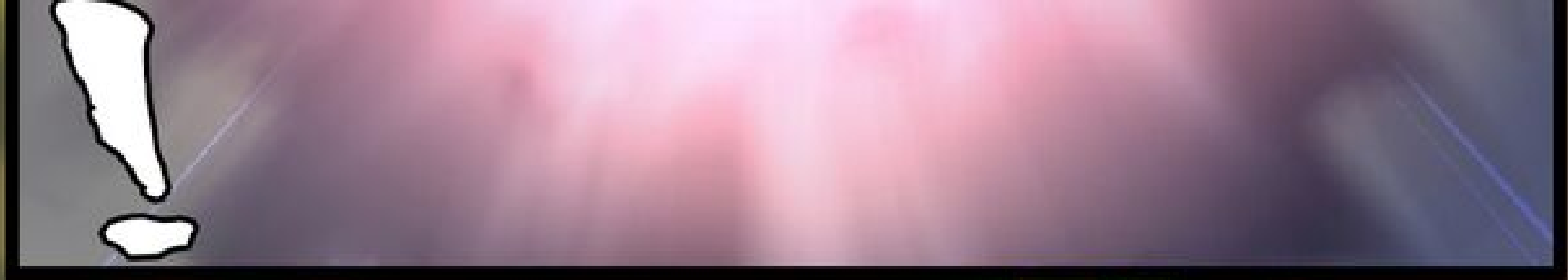
R

A

A







BOOM!





THUD!



WHAT
IN THE
WORLD...



ART!





ARE
YOU OKAY?

I-
I'M FINE...
I THINK.

I KNOW
YOU HAVE YOUR
REASONS FOR NOT
TELLING ME
'TIL NOW,

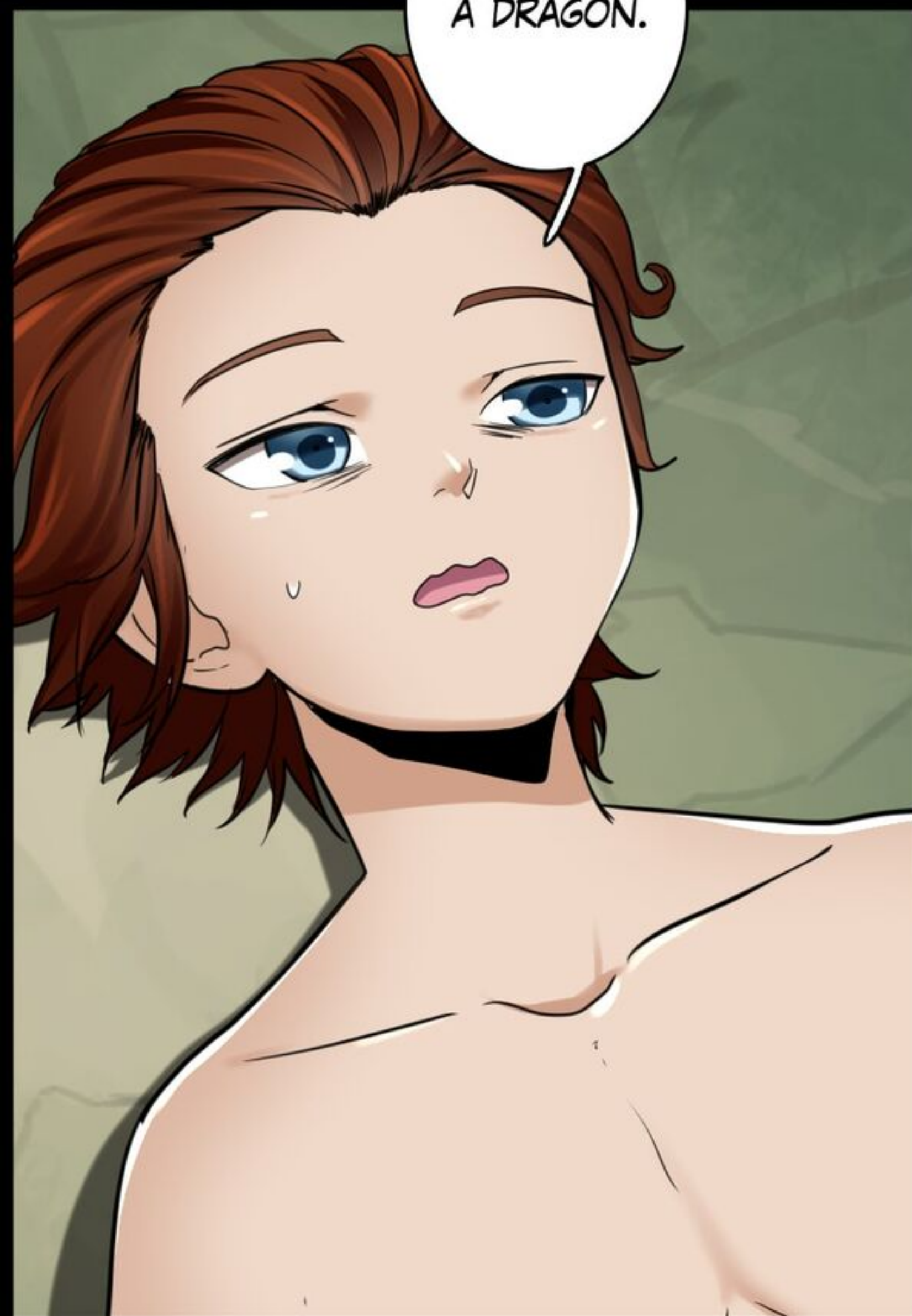
BUT... I
HAVE TO ASK
ONE MORE
TIME.



WHAT
SORT OF BEAST
GAVE ITS WILL
TO YOU?

SHE WAS...

A DRAGON.

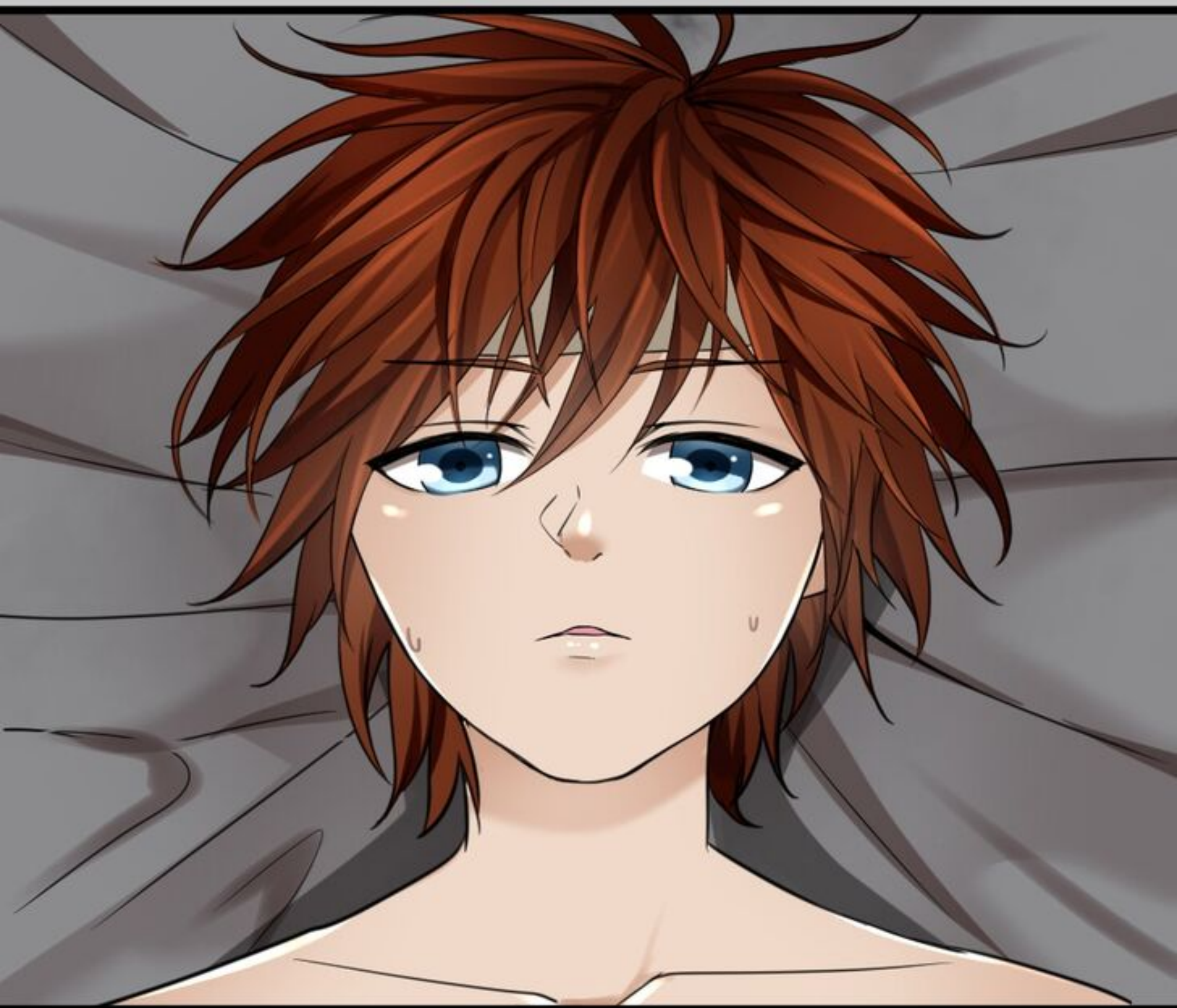






DEAR LORD,
A REAL
DRAGON
TAMER!

I T-
TRAINED AN
ACTUAL...



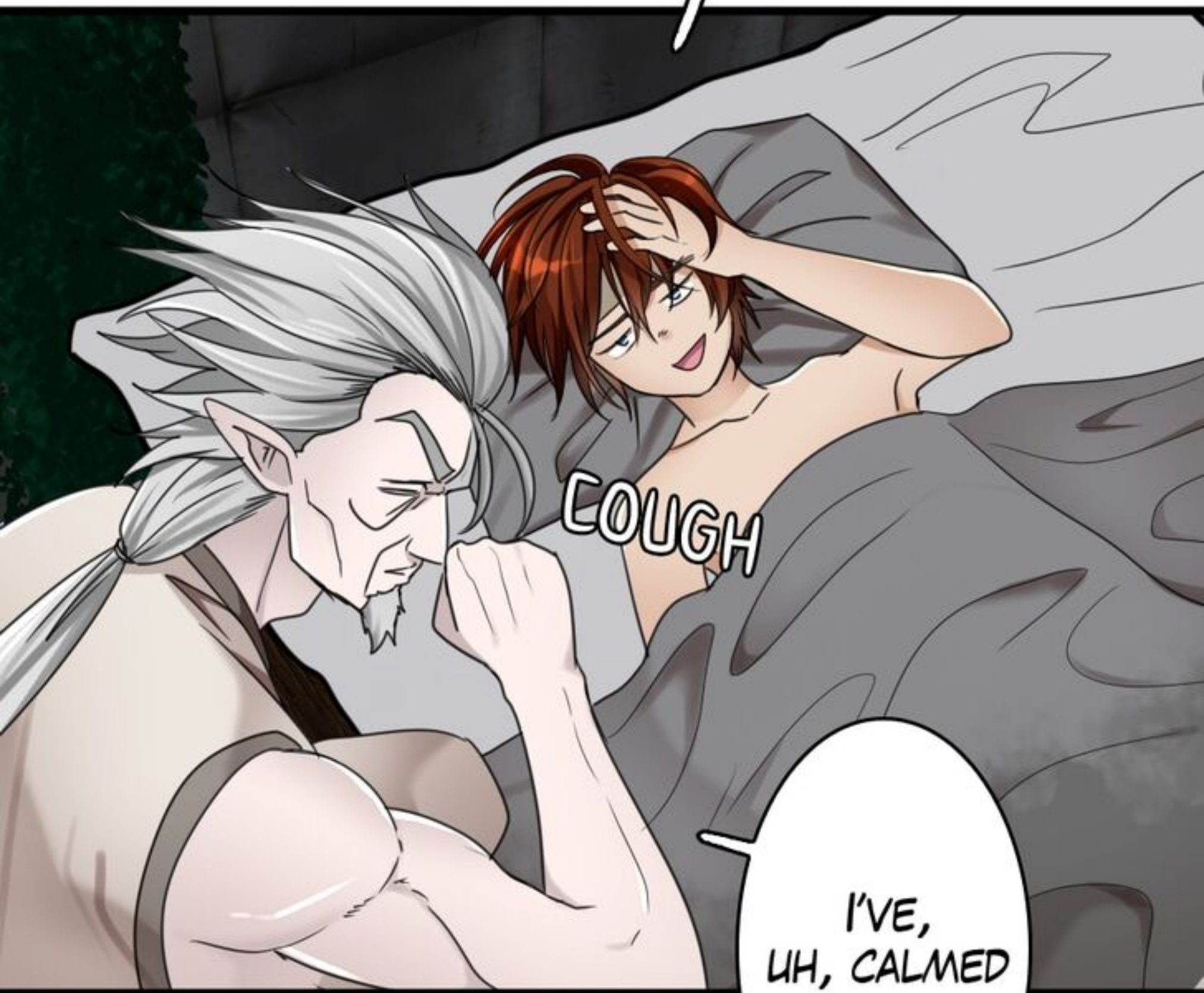
HOW
ARE YOU
FEELING?





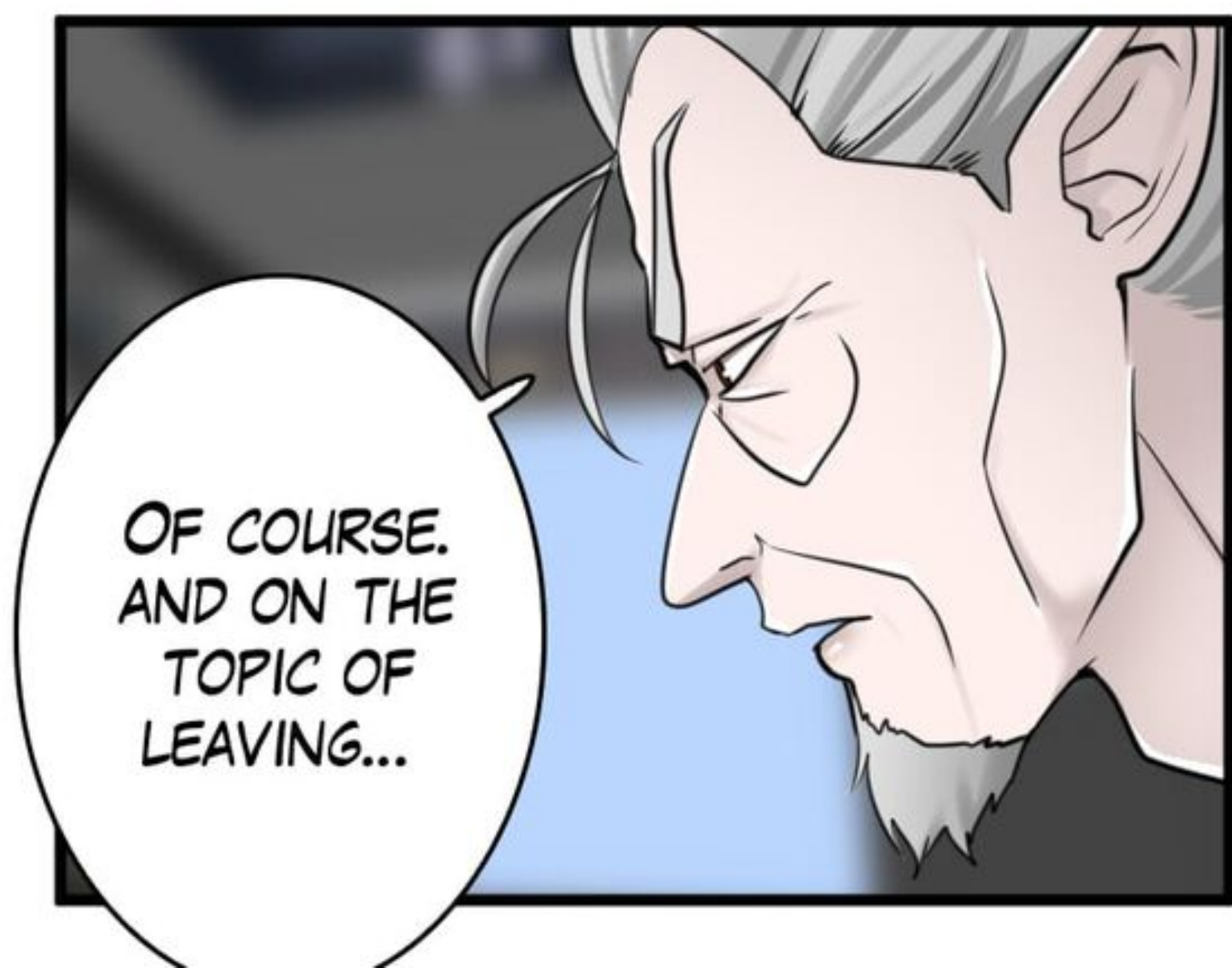
I THINK
I SHOULD
BE ASKING
YOU THAT?

THE
LAST THING
I REMEMBER
BEFORE FALLING
UNCONSCIOUS
IS YOU GOING
CRAZY.



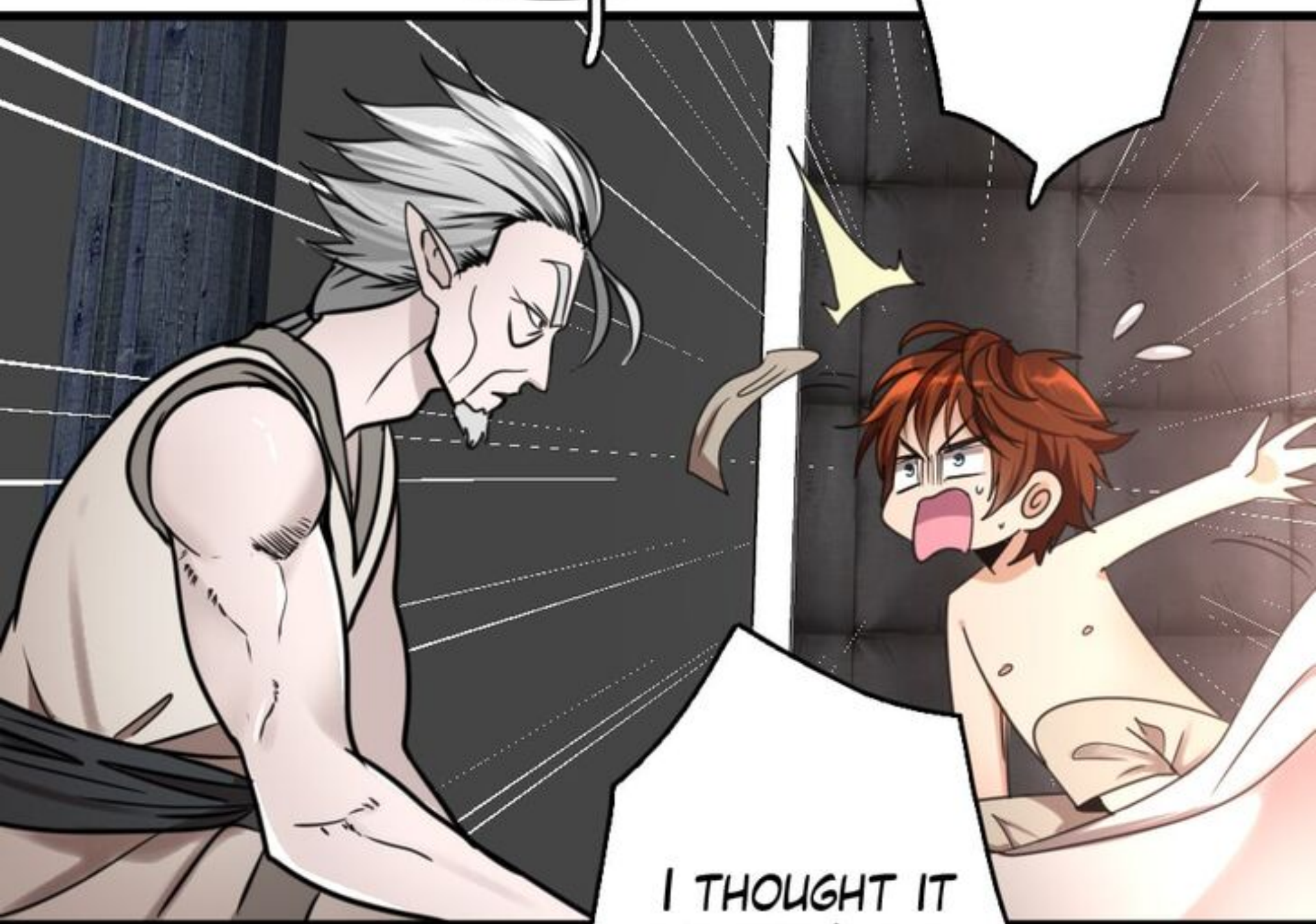
COUGH

I'VE,
UH, CALMED
DOWN.



THE DATE OF YOUR
DEPARTURE HAS JUST
BEEN SET FOR FOUR
MONTHS FROM NOW.

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?!



I THOUGHT IT
WOULDN'T BE
FOR ANOTHER
TWO YEARS?



AN INTERRACIAL
TOURNAMENT AMONGST
THE THREE KINGDOMS'
YOUTHS THAT WAS IN THE
WORKS HAS FINALLY
BEEN CONFIRMED.

THE PORTALS
IN XYRUS CITY OF
SAPIN WILL BE OPEN TO
BOTH ELENOIR KINGDOM
AND THE KINGDOM
OF DARV DURING
THIS TIME.





IS THIS
WHY TESS
ISN'T HERE?

SO YOU
CAN TELL
ME THIS?



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
TESS.



I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN
CHECKING IN ON
THEM THESE
PAST FEW YEARS
THROUGH RINIA,

BUT YOU'LL
FINALLY BE ABLE
TO SEE THEM
IN PERSON.

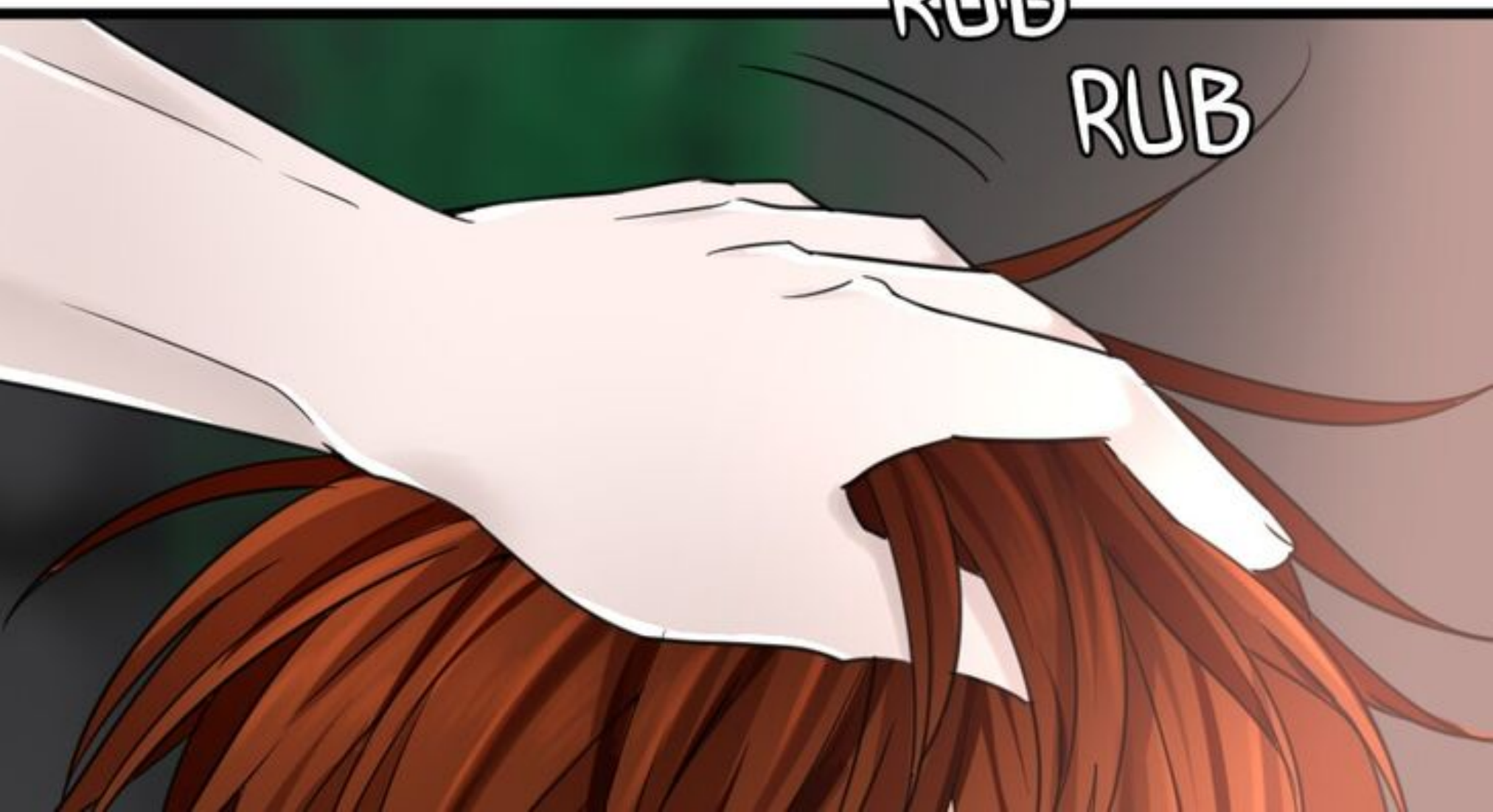
YEAH.

STILL...
FOUR MONTHS IS
PRETTY SOON.



RUB

RUB





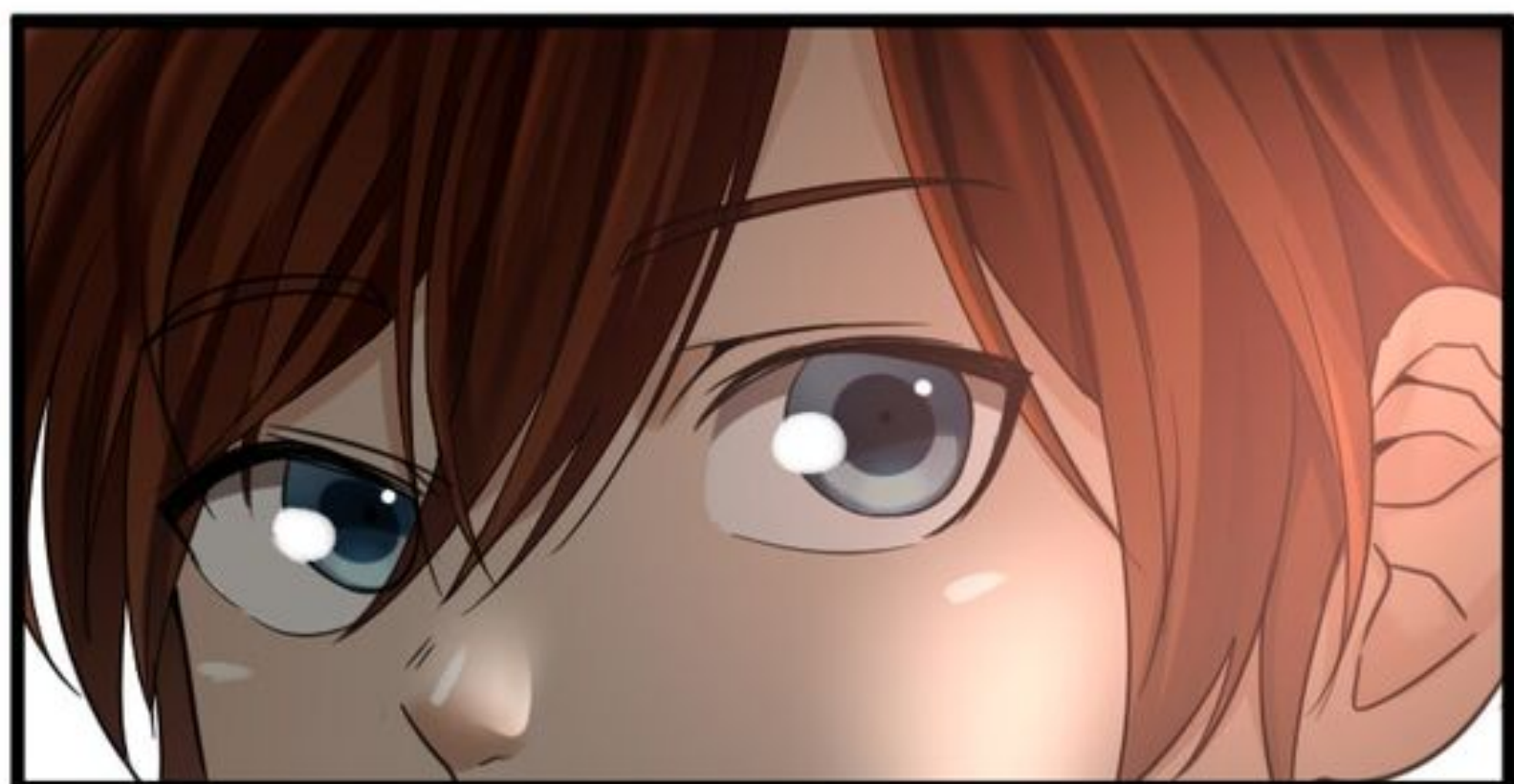
I'LL
MAKE YOU WISH
THESE FOUR
MONTHS WERE
OVER SOON,
BRAT.

NOW THAT
YOU'VE FINISHED
YOUR ASSIMILATION,
YOUR TRAINING
WILL GET EVEN
HARDER.

GET SOME
REST. I'LL BREAK
IT TO TESSIA
GENTLY.









CRACK

